

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EIND, ETRD, US, JA

SUBJECT: STEEL VRA -- US- JAPAN CONSULTATIONS

1. US- JAPAN STEEL VRA CONSULTATIONS WILL BE HELD IN WASHINGTON JUNE 19, WITH TAD YAMADA HEADING JAPANESE INDUSTRY DELEGATION.

2. AMONG OTHER THINGS, WE EXPECT DISCUSS SUBJECT CARBON COLD FINISHED STEEL BARS (CFSB) DURING CONSULTATIONS. UNDER US PRACTICE, CFSB CLASSIFIED CARBON SO LONG AS SULFUR OR LEAD CONTENT DOES NOT EXCEED 0.35 PERCENT. UNDER JAPANESE PRACTICE, CUTOFF IS 0.1 PERCENT, WITH CFSB CONTAINING GREATER AMOUNTS SULFUR OR LEAD CLASSIFIED AS ALLOY. PRIOR TO JAN 1, 1973, US TARIFF LISTING FOR ALL CARBON CFSB (IE, UP TO 0.35 PERCENT SULFUR OR LEAD) WAS TSUSA 608.5000. AT REQUEST OF US CFSB PRODUCERS, US TARIFF COMMISSION DECIDED ESTABLISH NEW SUB- CATEGORY FOR CARBON CFSB WITH MORE THAN 0.10 PERCENT SULFUR OR LEAD. EFFECTIVE JAN 1, 1973, ALL CARBON CFSB CONTAINING OVER 0.10 PERCENT

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SULF4 R OR LEAD CLASSIFIED AS TSUSA 608.5005; WHILE OTHER CARBON CFSB (IE, UNDER 0.10 PERCENT SULFUR OR LEAD) CLASSIFIED AS TSUSA 608.5015.

3. US CFSB PRODUCERS INFORM DEPARTMENT THEY HAVE RECEIVED REPORTS THAT JAPANESE HAVE ALTERED THEIR OWN EXPORT CLASSIFICATION REPORTS THAT JAPANESE HAVE ALTERED THEIR OWN EXPORT CLASSIFICATION CARBON AND ALLOY CATEGORIES NOW USED BY JAPANESE IS 0.35 PERCENT SULFUR OR LEAD (VICE 0.10 PERCENT.). CHECK WITH OTHER USG AGENCIES REVEALS NO KNOWLEDGE ANY SUCH CHANGE BY JAPANESE, AND WE WOULD APPRECIATE JAPANESE INDUSTRY DELEGATION CLARIFYING THIS POINT DURING CONSULTATIONS.

4. EMBASSY REQUESTED QUERY YAMADA OR EXPORT ASSOCIATION RE REPORTED JAPANESE EXPORT CLASSIFICATION CHANGE OUTLINED ABOVE, AND ASK THEM BE PREPARED CLARIFY THIS POINT DURING CONSULTATIONS.

5. FYI. COMPARISON OF JAPANESE CARBON CFSB EXPORT STATISTICS (BASED ON GOJ CUSTOMS CLEARANCE DATA) FOR JANUARY 1973 AND 1972 INDICATES THAT ANY JAPANESE EXPORT CLASSIFICATION CHANGE MAY BE AN INFORMAL ONE LIMITED TO INTERNAL EXPORT ASSOCIATION REPORTS, RATHER THAN FORMAL CHANGE IN GOJ EXPORT CLASSIFICATION. END FYI. RUSH

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